

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

a QL737.C27B4

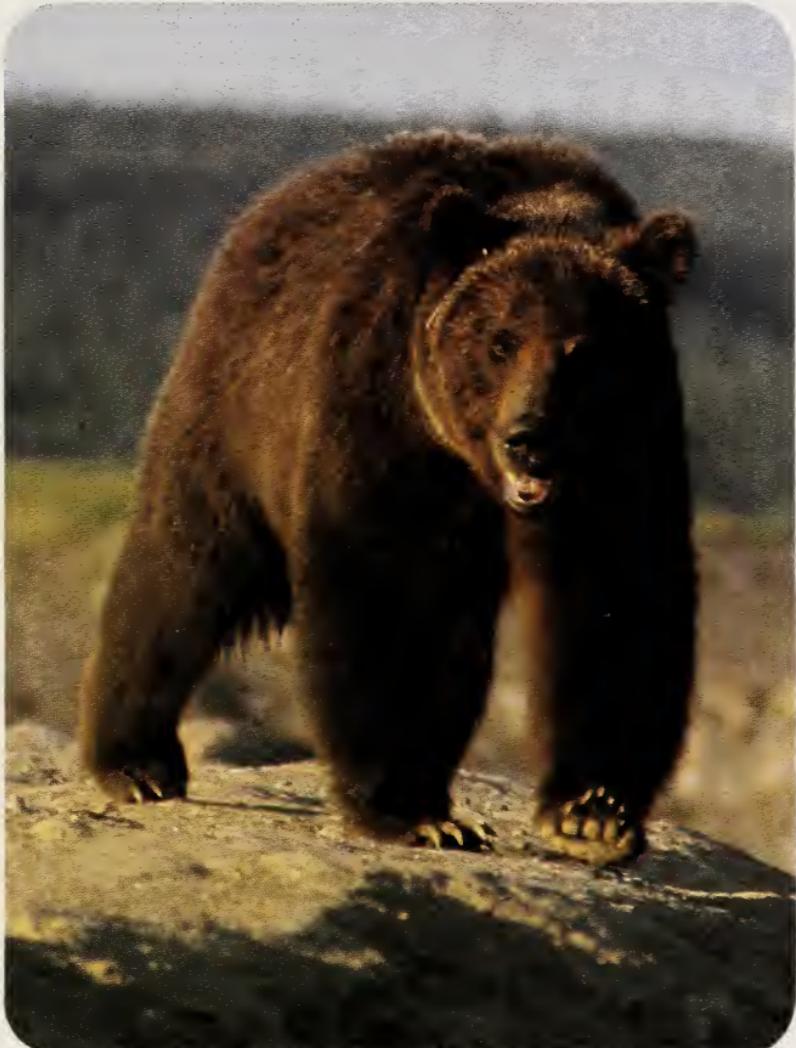


Photo by: John and Frank Craighead

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY
grizzly country
bear us in mind

AUG 17 1987



CATALOGING = PREP.



WELCOME to the Greater Yellowstone Area . . . a unique and special place. Here is one of the last homes of the magnificent Grizzly Bear: a vanishing symbol of our natural heritage.

Grizzlies once ranged throughout most of the western United States. Today, fewer than 1,000 grizzly bears survive in the wild areas of Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho.

The grizzly is listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a THREATENED species — one which may become Endangered unless conservation measures are carried out that minimize bear-human conflicts.

The Greater Yellowstone Area makes up a large and essential part of the grizzly's remaining habitat.

All bears are powerful and potentially dangerous, yet you can enjoy this area, provide for your personal safety and usually prevent bear-human conflicts by taking a few precautions.

No matter where you are in Grizzly country



REMEMBER . . .

- Food and odor attract bears
- Bears don't like surprises
- Bears are wild animals

food & odors ATTRACT BEARS



- Keep a clean camp and store food and garbage properly *at all times*. Store food in your car trunk if available. Otherwise, place food in a bag, backpack, or pannier and hang from a tree branch at least 10 feet above ground and 4 feet out from the tree trunk. Do not store food in tents.
- Deposit garbage in bear-proof containers where available or pack it out. Never bury it.
- Avoid cooking smelly or greasy foods. Sleep some distance uphill from your cooking area and food storage site. Keep sleeping bags and personal gear clean and free of food odor. Don't sleep in the same clothes you wore while cooking.
- Store odorous products as though they were food. Don't use perfumes or deodorants. Women may choose to stay out of bear country during their menstrual period.
- Where hunting is permitted, keep game meat out of reach of bears. Dispose of fish entrails by puncturing the air bladder and dropping in deep water where it will decompose naturally.
- Horse pellets should be stored the same as food.



Bears don't like **SURPRISES!!!**

Use caution where visibility or hearing is limited. Make your presence known to bears by singing, talking, wearing bells, or making other noises. Travel in groups. Do not hike after dark.

Be alert. If you notice bears, dead animals, or bear signs such as tracks, droppings, or diggings, choose another area.

Dogs can disturb a bear and lead it back to you. If dogs are permitted in the area, don't allow your dog to run free.

Bears are **WILD** animals



Bears usually avoid people, but their responses are unpredictable. A female may be quickly provoked if her cubs are disturbed or if you come between the cubs and her.

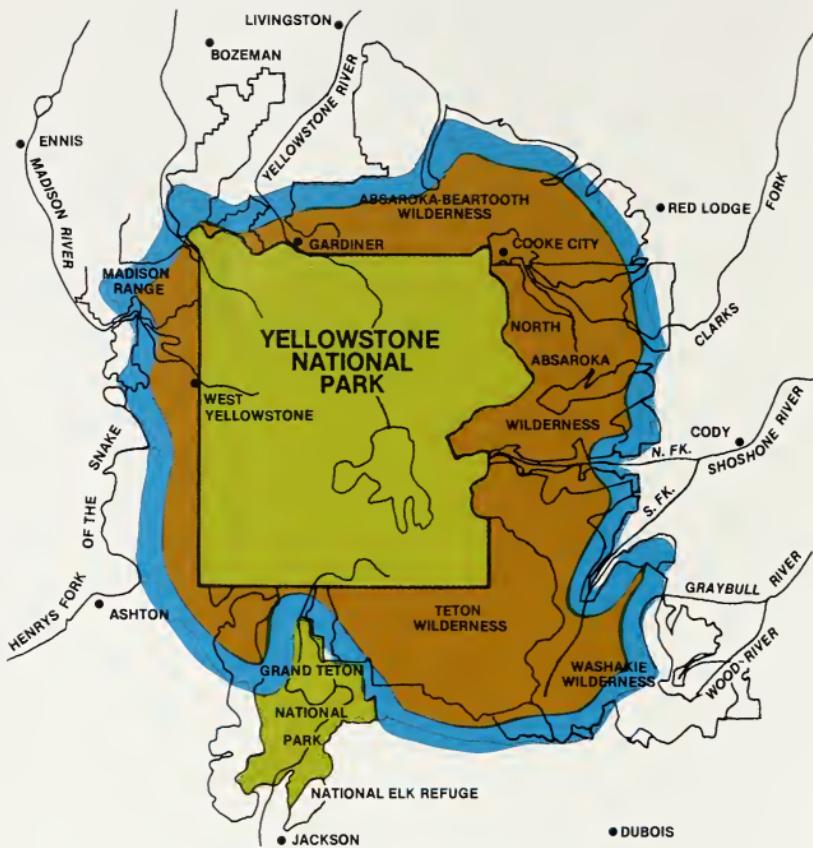
If you spot a bear — but it doesn't see you — avoid it by quickly and quietly leaving the area.

If You **ENCOUNTER** a Bear

Even if you have taken all precautions, you may still encounter a bear. If you do —

- Stay calm — it will probably leave you alone. Do not make abrupt moves or noises that would startle the bear.
- Give the bear plenty of room. Slowly detour, keeping upwind so it will get your scent and know you are there. If you cannot detour, look for a climbable tree while waiting for the bear to move away from your route.
- If a grizzly bear does charge, your options are —
 - drop a pack or coat to distract the bear,
 - climb at least 12 feet up a stout tree,
 - as a last resort, assume a "cannonball" position to protect your head and stomach while playing dead.

Because grizzlies can attain short bursts of speeds up to 40 mph, running away is a poor option.



- Occupied Grizzly Habitat
- National Park
- National Forest

greater yellowstone area

In the Greater Yellowstone area, all things — including bears and people — function together. The area includes portions of 5 National Forests and 2 National Parks in Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho. Although Yellowstone National Park is considered the heart of grizzly country, the bears roam throughout the area.

Contact a National Park or Forest Ranger or a State Conservation Officer about current bear activity in the areas you plan to visit.



Front Track

Straight Profile

No Hump



BLACK BEAR



Front Track

Dish Face Profile

Hump



GRIZZLY BEAR

Understanding Grizzlies can reduce your chances for conflict and help conserve the bears.

The Grizzly has a low reproductive capacity because: (1) females may not breed until 5-8 years old, and (2) females take care of their cubs for 2-3 years, during which time no other young are produced. If too many Grizzlies are killed, the bear population will decrease and may face extinction.

Grizzly bears are very powerful and possess a tremendous sense of smell, good hearing, but poor eyesight. A Grizzly learns quickly and has a good memory.

Bears are attracted to human foods which offer a powerful "reward". They can develop a bad habit after only one reward. Bears that do obtain human food or garbage may lose their fear of people and become a danger. When the behavior of wild bears has been corrupted by obtaining human foods, they oftentimes have to be destroyed to protect the visitors.

Preventing bear-human conflicts is the key. Storing *your* food properly is the best way you can help yourself and the Grizzly while in the Greater Yellowstone Area . . . Don't let *your* carelessness cause the unnecessary death of a bear.



